

Appln No. 09/889,181  
Amdt dated Jan. 8, 2004  
Reply to Office action of Oct. 8, 2003

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This paper is submitted responsive to the official action mailed October 8, 2003. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, the examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

The examiner also rejected several claims over prior art and indicated that claims 4-7, 10, 11 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph and independent form. In the discussion of allowable subject matter, the examiner also discussed claim 17 and it is believed that the examiner has held claim 17 allowable as well.

By the present amendment, all independent claims have been presented so as to incorporate subject matter indicated allowable by the examiner, and the 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph issues have been addressed. It is therefore believed that this response places the application in condition for allowance.

In connection with the rejection under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph the term "cardanically" has been deleted from the claim as requested

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by the examiner. The portion of the claim indicating that the extruders face each other has also been removed as requested by the examiner.

In connection with dependant claim 2, the examiner states it is unclear whether the (y) or (z) direction is in a plane parallel to the ground. It is respectfully submitted that neither of these directions must be in a plane parallel to the ground, but that these directions are certainly definite as relate to each other and to the production line. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the directions recited in dependant claim 2 are indeed clear and proper under 35 USC 112,, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

In connection with the language regarding the extrusion head in claim 2, this clause of the claim has been moved to an earlier portion of the claim to make clear that the clause means that the welding station is displaceable with respect to the extrusion head, and that the extrusion head is not being utilized to define the directions set forth in the claim. It is believed that dependant claim 2 as amended is in proper form under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

The anticedant basis issues raised by the examiner in connection with claim 17 have been addressed. Thus, it is believed that all issues under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph are resolved. The

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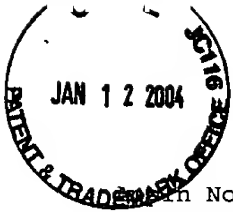
claims as amended contain independent claim1 drawn to combination of claims 1, 4 and 6, claim 4 redrafted in independent form, claim 6 redrafted in independent form, claim 10 redrafted in independent form, claim 14 redrafted in independent form and claim 17 redrafted in independent form.

Since each of these claims contains subject matter indicated by the examiner to be allowable, it is believed that all claims in the application are now in condition for allowance and such early and favorable action is therefore respectfully solicited.

A check in the amount of \$ 129.00 is enclosed to cover the small entity fee for three extra independent claims.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.



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It is believed that no additional fee is due in connection with this response. If, however, any fee is due, please charge same to deposit account no.: 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

By

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January 8, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on January 8, 2004.

Natalie M. Pimentel